

Pennsylvania High School Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals. Dr. Purvis has served diligently for 3 years as the principal of Chambersburg Area Senior High School.

Dr. Purvis has taken a pivotal role in changing the morale at Chambersburg Area Senior High School by improving the school atmosphere and reducing discipline problems. His vision for the school, which rests on a foundation of character-building, has vastly improved the success of Chambersburg Area Senior High School students. Regarded as a forward thinker, Dr. Purvis made major adjustments to the academic curriculum, resulting in the considerable rise of state testing scores and the graduation rate.

Prior to working as principal of Chambersburg Area Senior High School, Dr. Purvis served as principal of Chambersburg Area Middle School, which he led to earn the National Blue Ribbon School designation. He carried his success and experience over to the high school, overcoming significant challenges and earning an even more prestigious award. As the Pennsylvania High School Principal of the Year, Dr. Purvis will compete for the title of National High School Principal of the Year.

Dr. P., as he is endearingly known by his students, has made a great contribution to the betterment of our youth and will continue to enhance the education of many. The Chambersburg Area Senior High School faculty and student body are fortunate to have such a devoted leader. The citizens of Chambersburg and I would like to thank Dr. Purvis for his service and dedication to the education system and the community.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN AFGHANISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 736, a resolution to Condemn Afghan Attempts to Prosecute Converts. I share my colleagues' deep concern regarding the case of Mr. Abdul Rahman and the questions it raises regarding Afghanistan's commitment to religious freedom and human rights. I have sent a letter to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and I submit it for the RECORD.

DEAR PRESIDENT KARZAI: I am writing to you concerning the case of Abdul Rahman, whose conversion to Christianity could have cost him his life under traditional Sharia law.

Along with many in the U.S. as well as in Britain, Germany, Italy, and Australia, I am relieved that Mr. Rahman will not be tried for exercising a right that is guaranteed to him by national and international law. I recognize that you face strong domestic opposition to this decision, but I urge the Afghan government to stand by it and to use this opportunity to demonstrate your Government's commitment to tolerance, the rule of law, and the democratic ideals that are just beginning to take root in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Constitution stipulates that Afghanistan shall abide by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief." Additionally, although Afghanistan is an Islamic state, its Constitution expressly grants followers of other religions the right to freely exercise "their faith and perform their religious rites within the limits and the provisions of law." The case of Abdul Rahman highlights the need to define these limits.

Your steady and principled leadership during the uncertain post-war period earned you the admiration and trust of the citizens of Afghanistan, who chose you to defend their hard-won freedoms and rights as their first democratically-elected President. Similarly, the international community has supported your reform efforts and we congratulate you on the major social, political, economic and security improvements in Afghanistan since the defeat of the Taliban.

The strength and legitimacy of your democratically-elected Government will ultimately depend upon that government's ability and willingness to protect and promote the fundamental human rights of all Afghani citizens. While it may be permitted under Islamic Sharia law, the threatened execution of Mr. Rahman would have violated the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Afghan Constitution. We are grateful this man's life has been spared, and we hope that your government will take this opportunity to clarify the supremacy of Afghanistan's constitution within your country's legal framework.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4939. Today, Congress continues its owe-as-you-go policy of borrowing and spending, burdening future generations of Americans with an additional \$92 billion in debt and at the same time embracing the Bush administration's disastrous war in Iraq. Giving this administration more borrowed money for billion dollar no-bid contracts without congressional oversight is irresponsible and a policy I can neither justify nor defend.

In a cynical maneuver, the Republican majority has linked nearly \$70 billion more for maintaining U.S. troops in the middle of an Iraqi civil war with the resources needed to assist Katrina's victims and the funds necessary to keep alive the victims of genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. I strongly support providing our fellow citizens of the gulf coast with the resources to rebuild their lives and their communities and increasing our commitment to bringing peace to Sudan. However, I cannot support an administration policy of consistently misleading the American people about the

unsustainable Federal budget deficits and the quagmire in Iraq.

It is an irresponsible budget gimmick to fund the war in Iraq through emergency spending. We are beginning the fourth year of war in Iraq. Clearly the Bush administration was aware that there would be funding needs and had the opportunity to account for those needs in the proposed budget. Instead, the entire cost of this war—over \$300 billion—is deferred to be paid for by future generations. Congress must have an honest debate about our increasing budget deficit and the implications of this debt on our country and our future.

Every American soldier and marine deserves our support, as well as a realistic and honest strategy for success from the Bush administration. They also deserve a White House and Congress with the courage to pay for this war today, not pass the cost on to the children and grandchildren of every American, including every veteran who has sacrificed so much in Iraq.

For the violence and murder to stop and the civil conflict in Iraq to end, it will require Iraqis, not Americans, willing to find solutions to bring security, stability and peace to their country. U.S. troops should never be in the position of being referees in a bloody civil war. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has no intention of drawing down U.S. troops anytime soon. The passage of this bill today will ensure, regrettably, that our troops will remain in Iraq for the foreseeable future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BETHEL APOSTOLIC TEMPLE ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Bethel Apostolic Temple on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary. On Saturday, April 1, 2006, the Reverend Carol Nash will lead her congregation, along with several guests, to celebrate this milestone at the Church's Humanitarian Awards Banquet to be held at the Miami Embassy Suites Hotel Grand Ballroom. This event will also honor two distinguished members of our community, former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, my mother, and the Reverend Dr. George E. McRae, my pastor and the pastor of Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church.

Founded by the late Dr. Doris R.L. Atkins in January 9, 1956, this citadel of faith in Miami-Dade County has been an unerring witness to the spiritual revivalism that undergirds the power of fasting, faith and prayer. Dr. Atkins was the resilient leader of this church and an inspiration to a remarkable group of pastors, evangelists and bishops who are now ministering to a number of churches throughout South Florida. Dr. Michael Moss took over in 1988, and through his dynamic theological teaching and progressive preaching, Bethel Apostolic Temple experienced a period of tremendous growth. This visionary pastor led his congregation in 1997 to what has now become one of the landmark churches in South Florida.

Reverend Nash assumed the pastorate in 1998 from Dr. Moss, and under her leadership, its burgeoning membership has taken on